TRENDS

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, November 3, 1988 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended October 29 totaled an estimated 20.1 billion ton-miles, up 0.5 percent from the 20.0 billion carried in the comparable week of 1987, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 43 weeks of 1988 was an estimated 827.4 billion ton-miles carried, up 6.4 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings originated in the week ended October 29 totaled 454,287, up 0.8 percent from the corresponding week of last year, and virtually unchanged from the preceding week. Compared with last year, carloadings originated were up 2.9 percent in the West, but down 1.2 percent in the East.

Compared with the corresponding week of last year, 12 of the 20 major commodity groups decreased. Loadings of metallic ores increased by 5,062 cars (24.8 percent); nonmetallic minerals were up by 1,900 cars (21.6 percent); and chemicals and allied products were up 2,075 cars (8.0 percent). Coal was down 5,410 cars (4.1 percent). Eleven of the 20 commodity groups decreased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

Piggyback traffic for the week ended October 22 totaled 118,977 trailers and/or containers, up 5.1 percent from the comparable week of 1987.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 42 weeks of the year was 4,657,405 trailers and/or containers, up 5.7 percent from 1987.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 10/29/88:

	Loadings in Week ended October 29, 1988		Change from Corresponding Week 1987			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	29,038	D	1,755	5.7	D	1,675	5.5
Other farm products	3,410	D	597	14.9	D	758	18.2
Metallic ores	25,493	I	5,062	24.8	I	386	1.5
Coal	125,692	D	5,410	4.1	D	938	0.7
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	19,084	I	1,522	8.7	D	355	1.8
Nonmetallic minerals	10,707	I	1,900	21.6	D	365	3.3
Grain mill products	10,787	D	501	4.4	D	162	1.5
Food and kindred products	11,674	D	495	4.1	D	258	2.2
Primary forest products	9,589	D	585	5.7	D	463	4.6
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,951	D	850	9.7	I	580	7.9
Pulp, paper and allied products	11,715	D	389	3.2	I	434	3.8
Chemicals and allied products	28,141	I	2,075	8.0	D	862	3.0
Petroleum products	5,240	I	179	3.5	I	25	0.5
Stone, clay and glass products	11,630	I	10	0.1	D	376	3.1
Coke	5,970	D	225	3.6	I	478	8.7
Metals and products	10,584	D	665	5.9	I	509	5.0
Motor vehicles and equipment	23,002	I	982	4.5	I	686	3.1
Waste and scrap materials	10,083	D	151	1.5	D	163	1.6
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	2,515	D	739	22.7	I	93	3.8
All other carloads	91,982	I	4,075	4.6	I	3,304	3.7
Total Cars Loaded	454,287	I	3,443	0.8	I	120	0.003
Corresponding week of 1987	450,844						

	1988	1987	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (43 weeks)	18,345,949	17,547,968	I	4.5
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
42 weeks ended October 22	807.3	758.0	I	6.5
Week ended October 29	20.1	20.0	I	0.5
43 Weeks cumulative	827.4	778.0	I	6.4

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